

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF ORMSKIRK.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

1921.



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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1921.

To the Chairman and Members of the

Ormskirk Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present for your consideration my Annual Report dealing with the Public Health, the Vital Statistics, and the Sanitary Administration of the District during the year 1921.

Population.

The Registrar-General informs me that the population for the year 1921 was 7,500.

Birth Rate.

One hundred and seventy-seven *Births* were registered during the year, 80 boys and 97 girls. This gives an *Annual Birth-Rate* of 23·6 per 1000 of the population, which is 1·6 higher than that for 1920, and 2·7 higher than the average of the 10 preceding years. Seven of the births were illegitimate, which is 3·9 per cent. of the total births. The birth-rate for England and Wales was 22·4.

Death Rate.

One hundred and fifty-four deaths were registered. Deducting the non-residents and adding the residents who died in other districts the net total remains at 87, of which number 43 were males and 44 females. This gives the *Annual Death Rate* of 11·6 per 1000 of the population, which is 2·9 less than that for 1920 and 4·3 less than the average of the 10 preceding years. The rate for England and Wales was 12·1.

Epidemic Death Rate.

Five deaths were due to the principal epidemic diseases, 2 to Diphtheria and 3 to Diarrhœa. This gives an *Epidemic Death-rate* of $\cdot66$ per 1000, that for last year being $1\cdot16$, and the average of the 10 preceding years $\cdot9$.

Infantile Mortality Rate.

There were 8 deaths of children under the age of one year, which gives an *Infantile Mortality-rate* of 45 per 1000 births, that for 1920 being 105 and the average of the 10 preceding years being 101.

Seven deaths were due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, giving a rate of $\cdot93$ which is $\cdot37$ less than that for the previous year, and $\cdot44$ less than the average of the 10 preceding years. Ten deaths were due to Respiratory Diseases with a rate of $1\cdot3$ per 1000, that for the previous year being $2\cdot7$. Heart Diseases caused 7 deaths the rate being $\cdot93$ against $1\cdot6$ for the previous year. Cancer was responsible for 9 deaths the rate being $1\cdot2$ and that for 1920 $1\cdot4$.

Infectious Diseases.

The total number of Notifiable Diseases that came to my knowledge during the year was 69, as follows:—Diphtheria, 28, Scarlet Fever, 21, Enteric Fever, 1, Pneumonia, 5, Encephalitis-Lethargica, 1, Ophthalmia, Neonatorum, 1, Erysipelas, 1, Tuberculosis, 11. There were two more cases of Scarlet Fever than in the previous year; they were mostly of a mild type, several of them being only discovered when desquamation was in progress, one such case probably being responsible for three others. The other cases apparantly had no connection with each other. There was a welcome decrease in the number of cases of Diphtheria, there being 28 against 73 in 1920, and three of them were doubtful cases as swabs taken were reported upon as being negative. Twenty of the cases were notified during the first three months of the year being a continuation of the epidemic which had been prevailing for over two years. Another feature about the cases was that the illness appeared to have become of a milder nature with the exception of one case that was fatal, which however had been allowed to progress for some days

before medical assistance was sought. In connection with the cases notified and some that were of a suspicious nature 7 swabs were taken from throats and on examination 5 were negative and 2 positive, and 4 were taken from the nose all being positive. The case of Encephalitis was fatal, death occurring the day following notification and the body being removed immediately there was no opportunity to procure any material for bacteriological examination. The case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was mild and recovery took place without any impairment of vision. Of the 11 cases of Tuberculosis in 10, 5 males and 5 females, the seat of disease was the Lungs and in the other the Cervical Glands. All were notified by medical practitioners.

Bacteriology.

In addition to those mentioned previously 34 swabs were sent from the Isolation Hospital to be examined for Diphtheria Bacilli making 45 swabs in all sent away. One specimen of sputum was sent to be examined for Tubercle Baccilli the report being negative. Two samples of milk were sent for examination by the complete method for Tubercle Bacilli the report being negative.

Isolation of Infectious Cases.

The Ormskirk Urban District Council and the Lathom and Burscough Urban District Council have a Joint Hospital for the isolation and treatment of infectious cases, in which there are 26 beds.

The Joint Board has an arrangement with the Liverpool Hospital Committee, by which cases of Small-pox can be sent to the Corporation's Small-pox Hospital if there is accommodation. No retaining fee is paid.

During the year 20 cases of Scarlet Fever out of 21 notified, and 27 cases of Diphtheria out of 28 notified were admitted to the hospital from Ormskirk. There was 1 death due to Diphtheria. One hundred and sixty-eight thousand units of Diphtheria Antitoxin were used.

There are no other hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority within the district.

The Cottage Hospital and Dispensary is available for the inhabitants of Ormskirk and District and the hospitals in the neighbouring large towns are also available for special cases.

The County Council administer the arrangements for the treatment of Tuberculosis and Venereal Disease, also for School Clinics one of the latter being held at the Cottage Hospital.

Other than the Poor Law Institution in Ormskirk there is no accommodation for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children.

The Midwives' Act is administered by the County Council. There are 4 Midwives resident and practising in the district. There is a Health Visitor appointed by the County Council for the district, and Home Nursing is done by a Nurse under the Ormskirk District Voluntary Nursing Association.

There is a horse ambulance provided by the Joint Hospital Board for infectious cases.

Disinfection.

At the Isolation Hospital there is a Washington-Lyon Steam Disinfector, and this was used 27 times for Ormskirk, 723 articles of clothing, &c., being disinfected. Ninety rooms in 61 houses were sprayed. The schools in the town were sprayed nine times and a wooden hut in which meetings are held was also sprayed. The steam disinfector was used 11 times for stoving clothes from the West Lancashire Rural Council's District owing to the disinfector belonging to that district being under repair.

Schools.

The remarks made in my last Annual Report re the schools apply to this year also.

Child Welfare Centre.

The Child Welfare Centre still continues to do good work, 60 new babies having been brought during the year. The attendance has been good, there having been an average of 39 for each occasion the Centre was open.

Sale of Foods and Drugs Act.

This Act is administered by the County Police and I am indebted to Superintendent Crapper for the information that 46 samples were taken and that there were no prosecutions.

The Council adopted the Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890, on 30th January, 1891. The Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890, on 27th February, 1891. The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, on 29th December, 1908.

Public Health Staff and Sanitary Administration.

The Public Health Staff consists of a Medical Officer of Health (who is also the Medical Officer of Health for the West Lancashire Rural District Council); he is not in private practice, and a Sanitary Inspector who is also Surveyor and Rate Collector assisted by a Clerk for clerical work.

Water Supply.

The supply has been plentiful in quantity and sufficient for all requirements, 90,687,160 gallons being pumped during the year, which, after deducting that used for other purposes, gives a daily average of 205,780 gallons for domestic use.

Slaughter Houses.

There are two in the district which have been visited regularly. They have been found to be well conducted and kept clean. No cases of unsound or diseased meat were found.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

These have been inspected regularly and found satisfactory. Notices were served and verbal instructions were given where necessary for lime-washing. The number is the same as last year. Two samples of milk were taken and sent for examination for Tubercle Bacilli, the reports in both cases being satisfactory.

Bakehouses.

These are the same in number as last year and were, except in a few cases where limewashing was required, in a satisfactory condition when visited.

Common Lodging Houses.

Three only remain, and these have been regularly visited and instructions for lime-washing given which have been carried out. There has been no overcrowding.

Disinfectants.

Disinfectants have been supplied to householders for use on premises where there have been cases of Infectious Disease.

Courts and Alleys.

These have been regularly cleaned and swept, the drains have been flushed and repaired where necessary.

Closet Accommodation.

During the year 26 privies and 3 pail closets have been converted to water closets, and notices have been served to convert 14 privies and 5 pail closets to water closets, and tenders are being obtained for the work.

There are in the district :—

Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	1064
Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	...	...	7
Privy Closets	...	...	...	...	...	375
Privy Middens	...	...	...	...	...	315
Pail Closets	...	...	...	...	...	42
Ashbins	...	...	...	...	...	648
Ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	165

Scavenging.

This work is done by the Council. The ashpits, pails, and dust-bins are systematically emptied, the refuse being carted to the destructor where it is sorted, and what is of manurial value is sold to farmers in the district who are under agreement to remove the same when called upon to do so. The rest is burnt in the destructor.

Sewage Disposal.

The effluent from the Sewage Farm continues to be satisfactory, the same treatment has been used, namely, by settling tanks, land filtration, and coke breize beds. The Inspector for the Ribble Committee periodically takes samples of the effluent.

It will be necessary to take into consideration the question of storm water as the Chief Inspector does not approve of it being discharged into the brook.

Nuisances.

The Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector have made regular inspections during the year, and with the addition of complaints received, the following notices have been served and the nuisances abated or are in hand.

Preliminary notices	...	...	...	...	100
Statutory notices	...	...	...	...	9
Defective drains	...	...	...	...	50
Want of cleanliness	...	...	...	...	12
Repairs for dampness	...	...	...	...	35
Provision of new dustbins in place of defective ones					175

Housing.

The number of houses in the district is the same as last year. Plans for one large house were approved, but the work had not been completed at the end of the year.

No workmen's dwellings have been erected. The Council purchased land for the erection of such dwellings, plans and quantities were prepared and approved by the Housing Commissioner, tenders were obtained and forwarded for his observations. On the 24th August a communication was received from the Housing Commissioner stating that the Housing Council had considered the case and were not prepared to approve the erection of houses in the Council's District at the present time, and that the tenders should be declined.

Tabular statement of work done during the year under the Housing Acts :—

Houses inspected for housing defects	5
Houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations, 1910	85
Number of houses (exclusive of those mentioned above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	10
Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	5
Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	5
Number of defects remedied by owners	5

Factory and Workshops Act.

These were regularly inspected and were found satisfactory except in a few cases where lime.washing was required.

Number of inspections, 130. Number of defects found and remedied, 12.

The following is a list of the Workshops in the district :—

Bakehouses, 7 ; Basket Makers, 3 ; Cycle Dealers, 9 ; Confectioners, 6 ; Cooper, 1 ; Blacksmiths, 3 ; Cabinet Makers, 3 ; Milliners, and Dressmakers, 15 ; Plumbers and Painters, 11 ; Stonemasons, 2 ; Shoemakers and Clogger, 13 ; Tailors, 5 ; Wheelwrights and Joiners, 9.

Tarspraying.

The main roads were tarsprayed during the year under the direction of the County Surveyor, and the other roads laid down with macadam have been tarsprayed by the Council's own men.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. E. SCHOLEFIELD, M.B.E., M.D., D.P.H.,

Hon. Assoc. Order of St. John of Jerusalem in England.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE ORMSKIRK URBAN
DISTRICT, 1921.

CAUSES OF DEATH.							Males.	Females.
All Causes (civilians only)	...	...	...	...	...	...	43	44
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	3
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	4
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Heart Disease...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	4
Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, premature birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Deaths from Violence	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	17
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4
Total Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	80	97
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	76	94
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	3

Population—7,500.

General Statistics.

Area in Acres, 574.

Population (1921), 7500.

Number of Inhabited Houses (1921), 1276.

Number of Families of separate occupiers (1921), 1325 about.

Rateable Value, £38,512.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate, £160.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total	M.	F.
Births—Legitimate	170	76	94
Illegitimate... ..	7	4	3
Birth-rate (R.G.)—	23·6		
Deaths—	87	43	44
Death-rate (R.G.)—	11·6		

Number of women dying, or in consequence, of child-birth—0.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1000 births :—

Legitimate, 8 ; Illegitimate, 0 ; Total, 8.

Deaths from Measles, 0 ; Whooping Cough, 0 ; Diarrhœa (under 2 years), 3.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 over.	Total.	Remov. to Hospital.	Deaths.
Diphtheria	1				1	13	4	3	4	2			28	27	2
Scarlet Fever				1	4	14	1	1					21	20	
Typhoid Fever.....											1				
Puerperal Fever													1		
Pneumonia		1			1	1	1			1			5		5
Encephalitis Lethargica ...											1		1		1
Erysipelas												1	1		
Tuberculosis															
Pulmonary—															
Males									1		4		5		4
Females									2	2	1		5		3
Total									3	2	5		10		7
Non-Pulmonary—															
Males													1		
Females															
Total													1		

Ophthalmia Neonatorum —One case was notified. Treated at home and recovered with vision unimpaired.

